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PRIVATE
DEVOTION.

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Private Debtion.

PRIVATE DEVOTION.

A Selection of Prayers

BY

A LADY OF THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH.

*To be Sold for the Benefit of the Poor of a Parish
in Suffolk.*

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SUNDAY EVENING.

MOST glorious God! Blessed be Thy name for the renewed opportunities I have this day had of waiting upon Thee in Thy house; of joining in the public services of Thy sanctuary; and of being instructed and encouraged in those ways of righteousness that lead to life eternal. Help me, good Lord, to make a proper improvement of these religious advantages and means of grace that Thou affordest me. Enable me to live in a manner suitable to the profession I make, to the privileges I enjoy, and to the obligations and engagements I am under to Thee. Pardon, most merciful Father, those imperfections which have attended my religious duties this day, in Thy house, or my own. Forgive the deadness of my devotion, the wanderings of my thoughts, and the distractions of my mind.

For the many temporal mercies Thou art bestowing upon me from day to day, and particularly for the supplies of the day past, I would likewise offer Thee my unfeigned tribute of gratitude and praise.

And now be pleased to take me, O Lord, into Thy care and protection this night. Defend me from all evils and dangers; and refresh me, I beseech Thee, with sweet and comfortable repose. Let me lie down with holy thoughts of Thee, and when I awake let me be still with Thee. I would commend to Thy kind and gracious regards all my relatives and friends. Do them good, I pray Thee, and bless them with all such spiritual and temporal blessings as Thou knowest to be most proper and needful for them. Visit in mercy such as are under affliction. Give them patience and submission to Thy will; relieve their distresses, and afford them all necessary supports, and those Divine consolations which are neither few nor small.

Extend, O Thou God and Father of all, Thy loving-kindness and compassion to the whole human race. Send the light of Thy glorious

Gospel all over the world, and wheresoever it shines may it be the means of spreading righteousness and peace amongst men.

Hear me, good Lord, in these my imperfect petitions, and manifestly accept of my evening sacrifice of prayer and praise. Keep me in Thy fear and in Thy favour through the remainder of my short and uncertain life; support and comfort me in my dying moments; and after death be Thou my portion and exceeding great reward; through Jesus Christ the Son of Thy love, in whom I desire to be found, living and dying, and through whom I would ascribe to Thee, O Heavenly Father, all honour, glory, and dominion, now and for ever. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

O MOST great, most gracious, and most glorious God, the Almighty Maker and All-wise Governor of the universe, the Father, the Friend, and Saviour of mankind! all possible excellence is centered in Thee; all real and substantial good streams forth from Thee; and under a lively sense of Thine adorable perfections, Thine unlimited bounty, would I this morning come before Thee, to offer Thee my tribute of prayer and thanksgiving, and to present my prayers and supplications at the throne of Thy grace. Adored be that power and goodness which at first brought me into being, and whereby I have been constantly supported and liberally supplied with all things needful to my comfortable subsistence in this present state. I thank Thee particularly for the safety and repose of the last night; that I then laid me down and slept, and have awaked

this morning in health and peace, because Thou hast sustained me. Thus far, O Thou Preserver of man, hast Thou been pleased to spare my forfeited life; and numberless as my sins and provocations against Thee have been, Thou art still following me with Thy mercies and favours. O let me not despise the riches of Thy goodness, and forbearance, and long-suffering, nor forget that it is the design of all to lead me to repentance.

Blessed be Thy name for the encouragement Thou hast given me to repent of my sins, by the kind assurance of Thy readiness to pardon and accept of all who are truly penitent. Blessed be Thy name that, unworthy as I am of the common bounties of Thy providence, Thou hast freely offered to my acceptance a share in the far richer treasures of Thy grace.

Keep me this day in innocence and uprightness. In all my ways let me acknowledge Thee, and do Thou direct my paths. Teach me to guide my affairs with discretion, and in every respect to act in a manner suitable to the station wherein Thy providence has placed me, and to the general relations which I sustain.

Bless the family to which I belong, and all my dear relatives and friends, whether near or at a distance. May we be all interested in Thy peculiar favour and friendship, faithful in our duty to Thee here on earth, and happy in the enjoyment of Thee hereafter in heaven. All which, and whatever else thou seest needful and proper for me, for them, and for all mankind, I humbly entreat for Thy goodness' sake, in and through Christ Jesus Thy Son, who has taught us to address Thee under the endearing character of our Heavenly Father.

Our Father who art in heaven, &c.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD my God, Thou art ever merciful and gracious. Thou causest the outgoings of the morning and of the evening to rejoice over me. I desire at this time, with a grateful sense of the numberless favours Thou hast conferred upon me, and art continually renewing from day to day, to offer Thee my evening sacrifice of prayer and thanksgiving. Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

I adore Thee as the Author of my life and being, as the Former of my body, and the Father of my spirit. I bless Thee that Thou hast made me a rational creature, hast designed me for immortality, and hast placed me here in a state of discipline, in order to train me up, by a variety of exercises and trials, for

the business and blessedness of another and a better state.

And though I have in many instances acted in a manner unbecoming the dignity of my rational nature, and been far from answering as I ought the great ends of my creation, yet, blessed be Thy name ! Thou hast not dealt with me according to my deserts ; but hitherto hast Thou upheld my soul in life, and Thy visitation hath preserved my spirit. I thank Thee, O Lord, for the watchful care and kind supplies of Thy providence ; for my health and strength ; for my food and raiment ; for my relatives and friends ; and for all my social advantages and enjoyments.

But more especially would I praise Thee for the advantages and opportunities Thou hast afforded me for improving in the knowledge and practice of true religion ; for obtaining the pardon of my sins, and an interest in Thy forfeited favour, through Thy beloved Son.

Forgive me, O Thou Father of mercies, that I have hitherto made Thee such unsuitable returns for Thy great love and goodness ; that I have been so negligent in the discharge of my

social and relative duties, and so careless, even about my own highest concerns, my spiritual and everlasting interests. Pardon all the innumerable transgressions and provocations of my past life, and particularly whatever Thou hast seen amiss in my temper or conduct this day. Give me that godly sorrow for sin which worketh repentance unto salvation, needing not to be repented of, and enable me to act a wiser and a better part in all respects for the time to come. Make me particularly mindful of the duties I owe to those with whom I am connected by the ties of relation or friendship, and help me to take every means to promote their comfort and welfare. I commend them, gracious God, as well as myself, to Thy blessing and favour. Direct us, O Lord, by Thine unerring wisdom ; defend us by Thine Almighty power ; and provide for us, O Lord, by Thy never-failing goodness, through the various scenes and changes of this transitory state ; be our support and comfort in the awful hour of death, and our everlasting portion and felicity beyond the grave.

Thou hast brought me to the close of this

day in safety, and I implore the continuance of Thy care and protection this night. Watch over me, O Thou Preserver of men, in my defenceless moments, and after quiet and refreshing sleep raise me up in the morning fitted for the duties and events of another day. And when the succession of days and nights shall be no more, receive me into that state where I shall serve Thee without intermission, through a long, a happy, and an endless day. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.

MOST great and glorious God, with all humility and reverence would I prostrate myself before Thee, under a deep and affecting sense of Thy majesty and my own meanness ; of Thy bounty and my own indigence ; of Thy holiness and my own guilt. Without Thee, O Lord, I can do nothing : upon Thee do I constantly depend for life, and breath, and being. I need the perpetual exertion of Thy power for the continuance of my existence, and the support of my faculties. I need Thy wisdom to direct my uncertain steps, Thy goodness to supply my daily wants, Thy mercy to pardon my numberless sins, and Thy grace to assist me in the discharge of my duties.

Most thankfully would I acknowledge that hitherto Thou, O Lord, hast helped and sustained me ; provided for my necessities, both of soul and body, and raised me, by the Gospel of

Thy Son Jesus Christ, to the hopes and prospects of eternal glory. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; and crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies."

Grant that the more I know of Thy nature, Thy will, and Thy grace, the more I may be disposed to love Thee with all my heart, and soul, and mind, and strength; to yield a cheerful compliance with Thy sovereign will, and to hope and trust, to rejoice and delight myself in Thee.

And whilst I am endeavouring to fulfil the first and great commandment, suffer me not to forget the second, which is like unto it, of loving my neighbour as myself. May I strive to cultivate a sincere good-will for all mankind, fervently wishing the happiness of every one; rejoicing in that tender love that Thou exercise towards all Thy creatures, and cheerfully contributing whatever lies in my power to relieve the distresses and to promote the welfare of those that are round about me.

Accept my thanksgivings for the mercies of the night past, which Thou hast added to the sum of all Thy past favours. Long as I live will I praise the Lord, and magnify His holy name while I have any being. Grant that this day, and every day that Thou shalt please to add to my life on earth, may be so spent and improved as to increase my fitness for the joys and glories of the heavenly state, through Jesus Christ Thy Son; in whose most comprehensive words I continue to pray for myself, and for all my brethren of mankind,—

Our Father who art in heaven, &c.

TUESDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY and ever-blessed Lord our God, look mercifully upon me from Heaven, the habitation of Thy holiness, and enable me to pour out my heart before Thee, with that sincerity and truth that Thou requirest in all those that approach Thee.

Enlighten my mind, O Lord, with the knowledge of Thy will. Incline me to a dutiful and constant attention to all Thy commandments. Awaken me faithfully to search my heart and to try my ways. Enable me to understand the errors of my life, that I may be truly humbled under a sense of my past transgressions, and be more watchful in time to come. So teach me, O Thou Father of spirits, to number my days, that I may apply my heart unto wisdom. Through the vicissitudes of this uncertain state may I habitually look towards that great change to which I am continually

hastening, and to the awful day of account that succeeds it. Let the prospect of that great revelation of Thy righteous judgment excite the lively concern of my soul to be found always ready. Fix the sense of it, O gracious God, I entreat Thee, deep in my own heart, and in the hearts of all connected with me. Grant that neither the cares, the pleasures, nor any of the concerns of this present world, may betray us into a forgetfulness of the things that belong to our peace; but may we be sober and watch unto prayer, that, whenever we are called hence, our end may be full of peace and hope.

To Thy gracious care, O Thou great Guardian of Israel, I commit myself this night. Preserve me in the defenceless hours of sleep from all evil, and may my wakeful hours be sanctified by a sense of Thy presence, and be filled by innocent, useful, and holy thoughts and purposes. All I pray for in the name of my beloved and revered Saviour; and for myself and for all mankind I pray unto Thee in His words,—

Our Father, &c.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O THOU infinite, great, and adorable Majesty of heaven and earth, Thou art ever present in all parts of Thy vast dominions, and not far from any of Thy creatures. Thou knowest my down-sitting and mine up-rising; Thou understandest my thoughts afar off; Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.

Whither shall I go from Thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from Thy presence? It is as impossible to escape Thine eye, O Lord, as it is to subsist without Thy supporting hand, or to be happy without Thy favour: for even the darkness hideth not from Thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to Thee. May I, therefore, be careful to set Thee, the Lord, always before me; to remember, wherever I am and whatever I am about, that Thou, the Lord, seest me; to live under a constant sense of my necessary dependence upon Thee, and of my numberless obligations to Thee; and accordingly to seek

Thy favour with my whole heart, and to dread Thy displeasure above all things. How deeply am I indebted to that goodness which at first gave me being, and has hitherto upheld me in life, preserved me from perpetual dangers, and granted me so many days of comfort and nights of repose! How precious are Thy thoughts of kindness and acts of mercy unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I attempt to count them, they are more in number than the sand. When I awake I am still with Thee, and see new occasions every morning to meditate on Thy unwearied tenderness and care. But my highest obligations are to Thy sovereign grace for supplying me with the means of religious instruction, and for setting before me the views and hopes of immortal life and happiness in the Gospel of Thy Son Jesus Christ.

Give me, good Lord, a just sense of my unworthiness, folly, and guilt; and whereinsoever I have acted contrary to any of the laws of piety, truth, charity, purity, or sobriety, may I do so no more. Let no vain thoughts or corrupt imaginations be harboured in my mind. Let me set a watch on the door of my lips, and take heed that I offend not with my tongue.

May I daily walk with Thee in a course of holy living, so as to approve myself in Thy sight; and may it henceforth be my supreme delight to serve, and imitate, and please Thee. Prepare me, O Lord, for all the occurrences of the day. Teach me to see and own Thy hand in every mercy and enjoyment. Or, if Thou sufferest any trouble or affliction to befall me, help me, in a becoming manner, to submit to Thy will, believing that it is good for me to be afflicted, and endeavouring, by a wise improvement of Thy chastisement, to become a partaker of Thy holiness.

Mercifully comfort such as are cast down, and be a present help to them that are in trouble. Let Thy blessing be upon every member of the family to which I belong. Assist us all in the faithful discharge of our respective duties, and make us mutual blessings to each other.

All I humbly entreat for Thy mercy's sake, through Jesus Christ our blessed Lord and Saviour; in whose name I would ascribe to Thy Divine Majesty all honour and glory, thanksgiving and praise, both now and evermore. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

GREAT and glorious God, Thy mercies are new unto me every morning, and Thy faithfulness every evening. Through Thy good hand upon me I am now brought to the close of another day, and I would take this occasion to reflect with gratitude on Thy great and undeserved goodness to me through all the days of my past life; to acknowledge my obligations to Thee for all that I am and all that I have, and my entire dependence upon Thee for all that I need, and for all Thou hast encouraged me to hope for; humbly entreating that Thou wilt enable me to honour and praise Thee, to love and serve Thee, as the most excellent and beneficent of all Beings—my Father and my Friend, my Lord and my God.

With shame and sorrow do I confess myself unworthy of Thy mercies. I lament that I have

made no better improvement of them, and that the God in whose hand my breath is, and whose are all my ways, I have not glorified as I ought.

Thou, O Lord, knowest all my transgressions. Help me truly and sincerely to repent of them, so that I may be entitled to Thy pardon, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus Thy Son. Blessed be Thy name for that covenant of grace and peace which Thou hast established with us by the Gospel, wherein the promises of pardon, acceptance, and eternal life, are made to those who return unto Thee in the way of repentance, faith, and new obedience, and the assistance of Thy Holy Spirit is offered to all that ask it.

Support, relieve, and comfort the afflicted. Remember all my dear relatives and friends; make them partakers of Thy especial favour here, and of eternal glory in the world to come. Take me, I beseech Thee, under Thy protection this night, and defend me from all dangers and disasters. Refresh my body with such comfortable rest and sleep, that in the morning I may be fitted with renewed vigour to serve Thee, and discharge the duties of my station.

Be Thou my God and guide through life, my support and comfort in death ; and after death, my everlasting portion and felicity.

Now unto Him who is able to do for me far more exceedingly than I can ask or think, be glory through Jesus Christ, world without end. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD God Almighty, Thou art the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, the great Creator of heaven and earth. Again hast Thou brought me in safety to another day, and I would thankfully acknowledge Thy preserving care and goodness during the night past. I am continually dependent on Thee, and live from one moment to another solely as Thou affordest the means of life. Thy mercies are new every morning—they are repeated every evening: great is Thy faithfulness. I bless Thee for the powers of my body, for the faculties of my mind, for the gift of speech, and for every agreeable circumstance of my being. I thank Thee for the capacities for social, moral, and divine pleasures, and for all the comforts which I enjoy under Thy gracious providence. To Thy goodness am I indebted for that degree of peace and

tranquillity in which I live, and for every opportunity which I enjoy of being and doing good. All the happiness, and all the usefulness of my life, I owe to Thee, my God, and to Thy name be all the praise. Oh! my Heavenly Father, Thou hast ever treated me with the utmost tenderness and love. Thou hast fed and clothed me all my life long, and it is through help obtained from Thee that I continue to this day. Though I have often forsaken Thee, the fountain of living waters, Thou hast never forsaken me; Thou hast regarded me with pity amidst all my weaknesses; Thou hast beheld me with compassion amidst all my sins; and hast exercised great forbearance towards me. O Thou righteous Judge of all the earth, who renderest to every man according to his works, when I take a calm and serious view of all the motions of my heart and actions of my life, I must acknowledge, with deep regret, that I find many things for which I am self-condemned, and which I cannot recall to my remembrance without feeling the peace of my mind sensibly disturbed, and the awful dread of Thy displeasure strongly awakened.

O God, who hast the hearts of all men in Thy hands, and turnest them whithersoever Thou pleasest; teach me to imitate Thy perfect and universal goodness; enlarge my heart to embrace the whole human race; make me feel a perpetual flow of good will to all Thy creatures around me; check the growth—yea! kill the seeds of all malice, envy, and ill-will in my bosom; raise me to that happy state in which I shall forget myself, and place my chief delight in spreading peace, joy, and happiness all around me, to the utmost of my power. Let all the tender and generous affections increase in strength, in fervour, and in extent in my soul, till I become fit to be transplanted into that happy kingdom, where peace and concord, love and friendship, reign in full perfection for ever and ever.

Commending myself and all I peculiarly love to Thy protecting care through this day, I conclude my prayers for myself, and for all mankind, in the words of my beloved Lord and Saviour,—

Our Father, &c.

THURSDAY EVENING.

A GAIN, O Thou sole source of life and blessedness, hast Thou brought me in safety to the close of another day; and I would thankfully acknowledge Thy preserving care and goodness. I am continually dependent on Thee, and live from one moment to another solely as Thou afforest the means of life. Thy mercies are new every morning—they are repeated every evening: great is Thy faithfulness. I bless Thee for the powers of my body, for the faculties of my mind, for the gift of speech, and for every agreeable circumstance of my being. I thank Thee for my capacities for social, moral, and divine pleasures, and for all the comforts which I enjoy under Thy gracious providence. To Thy goodness am I indebted for that degree of peace and tranquillity in which I live, and for every opportunity which I enjoy of being and doing good. All the hap-

piness and all the usefulness of my life I owe to Thee, my God, and to Thy name be all the praise. O gracious God, may the holy and benevolent spirit of the Gospel have a more complete possession of my heart, and more effectually govern my life. Thou, Lord, knowest my thoughts, and seest all my defects and my sins. When I take a calm and serious view of all the motions of my heart, and the actions of my life, I must acknowledge that I find many things for which I am self-condemned, and which I cannot recall to my remembrance without feeling the peace of my mind sensibly disturbed, and the awful dread of Thy displeasure strongly awakened. Oh! deliver me, I beseech Thee, from all sinful desires and pursuits, and suffer no iniquity to have the dominion over me.

O great Father of all, who art love, and dwellest in love, teach me to imitate Thy perfect and universal goodness; enlarge my heart to embrace the whole human race; make me feel a perpetual flow of good will to all Thy creatures around me; check the growth—yea! kill the seeds of all malice, envy, and ill-will in

my bosom; raise me to that happy state in which I shall forget myself, and place my chief delight in spreading peace, joy, and happiness all around, to the utmost of my power. Let all the tender and generous affections increase in strength, in fervour, and in extent in my soul, till I become fit to be transplanted into that happy kingdom where peace and concord, love and friendship, reign in full perfection for ever and ever.

Commending myself and all I peculiarly love to Thy protecting care this night, I conclude my prayers for myself and for all mankind in the words of my beloved Lord and Saviour,—

Our Father, &c.

FRIDAY MORNING.

HOLY, 'holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! Thou art pure, and every word of Thine is pure; Thy law is holy, and Thy commands are holy, just, and true. With all humility, under a sense of many and great deviations from purity and righteousness, would I lift up my heart unto Thee, in whose sight the heavens are not clean. Just and true are all Thy ways, O Thou King of saints.

Accept my unfeigned and fervent thanks for protection and safety through the night past, and for recovery to the light and services of the day. May I esteem every day added to my life as a valuable opportunity afforded to me for the attainment of holy and virtuous habits, and may it be the first concern of my mind to practise universal righteousness, and to follow after it with diligence, and with an earnest solicitude to become what Thy law requires me to be.

Through the day that now opens upon me may I preserve in my breast a reverential sense of Thy purity and presence. In the spirit of an habitual and serious piety may I walk before Thee, who art holy in Thy ways, and learn, from a deep sense of Thy purity, to be righteous in all mine. May I fail in no duty of filial obedience, in every event being patient and submissive in the day of adversity; in the day of prosperity, humbled and thankful; and in all circumstances holding communion with Thee, the Father of spirits, by the aspirations of devotion. May I fail in no duty to my fellow-men, walking before my house with an upright heart; conciliating the affection of my domestics by condescension, cheerfulness, and kindness; neither rigorous in the services that I require, nor passionate under the light provocations of daily life, but candid and forbearing.

May universal righteousness reign in my heart and life; may it prevail in my house, and be pursued and practised by all mine: throughout the whole earth may it extend its power and blessings, till the things of time and the

kingdoms of this world shall pass away, and give place to those new heavens and new earth wherein righteousness will dwell for ever. Accept my holy, pious breathings, O God most holy, for Thy mercy's sake in Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY and gracious, unchangeable and everlasting God! In the morning it is my duty and privilege to commit myself unto Thee through all the circumstances of the day. At night it is my consolation to repose myself under Thy protection through the defenceless hours of sleep. Thou hast preserved me, O Guardian of my life, through the past day. Thus far hast Thou brought me, upheld me in being, supplied my wants, and ministered to my enjoyments. I praise Thee, my Maker, for the faculties and powers by which I am rendered capable of knowing, loving, and serving Thee, and of forming the habits and enjoying the pleasures and hopes of benevolence and devotion. Health, strength, and safety, food and raiment, friends and success, are in every measure and degree from Thee, and to Thee I offer my tribute of unfeigned praise for the share I have

in these blessings. With the warmest emotions of gratitude I would praise Thee for the assistance of Thy gracious and merciful goodness in Jesus Christ; for the light, aids, and privileges of the Gospel; for sending Thy Son Christ Jesus into the world to redeem us from all iniquity; and for the hopes and prospects of a happy immortality, given us through Him. Forgive, O Lord most merciful and gracious, every instance of forgetfulness of Thee and of Thy goodness, with which I am chargeable. Lead me to the more faithful discharge of all the duties which I owe to Thee, my heavenly Father, to my own self and my eternal interests, to my family, my relatives, and fellow-creatures. May I labour to be what Thou wouldst have me to be, and to do what Thou wouldst have me to do. May I be so upright in my dealings, so diligent in the services of my station, so contented with the allotments of Thy providence, so pure and holy in my conduct, that I may recommend and adorn the religion I profess.

God of my life, whose eye is ever over me for good, I commit myself to Thy care this

night. Preserve me, I beseech Thee, from every evil and danger. In the wakeful hour of darkness may my meditations be of Thee; in the morning may I lift up my heart to Thee with gratitude and devotedness, and still may Thy hand be with me. I rejoice to leave myself with Thee, with whom I leave those who are dear to me, the support and deliverance of the afflicted, and the salvation of all mankind. Let my prayer come before Thee as incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the morning and evening sacrifice, acceptable through Thy mercy in Jesus Christ, the Resurrection and the Life. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.

INFINITELY holy, blessed, and adorable Majesty of heaven and earth, at the opening of the morning I would call upon my soul and all that is within me to praise Thy name. I offer up unto Thee, my Preserver, my humble and hearty thanks for guarding the slumbers of the night from evil, and that I behold the returning light in health and comfort, rejoicing in new proofs of Thy goodness, and surrounded with a rich variety of blessings. May I live under a constant sense of my necessary dependence upon Thee, and of my numberless obligations to Thee—obligations renewed by every breath I draw, and by every blessing I receive from Thy liberal hands. My days and my hours, as they return and follow one another in quick succession, afford new occasions to meditate on Thy unwearied tenderness and care. With emotions of holy joy I magnify Thy

goodness for the ministry of Jesus Christ, who hath appeared to scatter the darkness of ignorance and error, and to establish a kingdom of righteousness and peace. For the counsels of mercy which were accomplished by His life, death, and resurrection, for the gracious and sanctifying design and efficacy of His Gospel, to Thee, the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, be given the tribute of ardent and everlasting praise. May the consideration of His miracles confirm my belief in His divine mission, and may the spirit and views with which He performed them engage my imitation of Him in the common actions of life. May His promises support my faith and animate my obedience. May His example be ever before my eyes, and like Him may I be undefiled and separate from sinners; meek, and humble, ready to minister to others, and to go about doing good, and set on doing Thy will and seeking Thy glory. I would review the past instances of Thy goodness, O my Almighty Guardian and ever-present Friend; with gratitude I would anticipate the future manifestations of Thy presence, which is the

presence of unfailing and universal love, with hope and gladness. May this faith encourage me to every duty, and fortify me to meet every trial. May I see Thy hand in every event; acknowledge Thy providence acting everywhere, and in all that taketh place; set Thee, the Lord, always before me, and be in Thy fear through all the day. May every day added to my life be filled up by a truly Christian conduct that will do honour to the Gospel. With unfeigned sorrow may I reflect on the great difference which there is in many, *many* instances, between what I am and what I ought to be, as the professor of the Gospel and the heir of an eternal inheritance. Henceforth may I live and act more worthy my high and holy calling, and may I at length obtain an entrance into the glorious and everlasting kingdom of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, according to the declarations of Thy mercy by Him. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

BLESS the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits! They are, indeed, too numerous for me to remember, and too countless, O Thou Source of all good, to reckon up before Thee. I cannot worthily acknowledge Thy great goodness, nor can I show forth all Thy praise. I thank Thee for all the blessings of my past life, and now more especially for the mercies of the past week. While many of my fellow-creatures have been called out of time into eternity, Thou hast preserved my soul from death. In a state of dangers and afflictions Thou hast, in a great measure, kept my eyes from tears and my feet from falling. Every morning and evening have brought with them their successive comforts. O Thou whose goodness surpasses all praise and all thought, Thy blessings are not fleeting like my days; they are not confined within the limits of this

life ; they are lasting as my existence, and endure for ever.

Blessed be Thy name, Thou hast made me immortal, and granted me the hope of eternal life through Thy beloved Son. By His Gospel Thou hast promised pardon to the penitent, strength to the weak, and life to the dead. Faint is my gratitude, Heavenly Father, compared with Thy rich mercy, and feeble my accents of thanksgiving. O may I show forth Thy praise, not with my lips only, but by my life ; and influenced by Thy mercies, and under an awful respect unto Thy threatenings, may I devote myself more unreservedly to Thy service, and walk before Thee in righteousness and holiness all my days.

To Thy gracious protection, O my God, I commend myself this night. If it be Thy will, grant me sound and refreshing rest, such as will fit me for the services and duties of the morrow. May my hours of sleep be free from disquieting thoughts and sinful imaginations, and in my wakeful hours may I realise Thy presence and feel its influence, in purity, love, and peace. If Thou seest fit to preserve me to

the light and comforts of another morning, let my first thoughts be directed to Thee, and may Thy gracious influence so blend with and guide my purposes and dispositions, that I may begin the day with Thee and spend it in Thy fear, and in the spirit of the Gospel.

All I supplicate in the name of Jesus Christ, my honoured Lord and Saviour; and in His words I conclude my imperfect prayer for myself and all mankind,—

Our Father, &c.

SUNDAY MORNING.

O GREAT and blessed God, the maker of heaven and earth! My times, O Lord, are in Thy hand. On Thee do I constantly depend for the continuance of that life which I at first received from Thee, and which I am under the strongest obligations to devote entirely to Thy service. But more especially am I bound to honour Thee with that portion of my time which Thou hast, in a peculiar manner, consecrated to Thyself. Oh! let not this Sabbath be added to the number of my lost Sabbaths; but help me to spend it in Thy fear, to employ it in holy acts and devout exercises, and to improve it to my spiritual edification, and to my increase in divine knowledge, grace, and comfort.

I would this morning come before Thee, with all possible seriousness and solemnity, to renew the dedication of myself to Thee, my

God. Thine I am, by the strongest ties of duty, interest, and gratitude, and Thine I would for ever be. Grant, O Thou most beneficent of Beings, that, in a humble imitation of Thy diffusive goodness, I may cherish in my heart a sincere good will and fervent charity to all my fellow-creatures, as Thy offspring. Let me not think it enough merely to wish them well, and to abstain from injuring them, but make me ever ready to do them all the good in my power. And especially let me never be wanting in the discharge of those duties which belong to my particular station and relations. Give me also wisdom clearly to discern, and effectually to pursue my own truest welfare and happiness. Teach me to prefer the interest of my soul to that of my body; to cultivate the graces of humility and meekness, moderation and contentment; to possess my soul in patience amidst all the trials and troubles of this present state, and to be above all things solicitous to ensure my future and eternal bliss. For these most important purposes, bless, O merciful God, all the means of grace that I enjoy, and particularly the opportunities I may this day have

of assembling with my fellow-christians to attend the ordinances of public worship and religious instruction. May I at length be found worthy to meet my fellow-worshippers before Thy eternal throne in Heaven, there to adore Thee in the sublimest anthems of homage and praise, and to be united to the saints of all ages, for ever to celebrate Thy perfections, to enjoy Thy favour, and to magnify that love which hath called us to eternal glory, through Jesus Christ, our blessed Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

AT THE CLOSE OR BEGINNING OF A YEAR.

ETERNAL Jehovah! Amid all the vicissitudes of time and nature Thou art unchangeably the same. I desire to cherish a humble, grateful sense of my dependence upon Thee, and I would at this time dwell with devout gratitude on the mercies, whether personal or relative, temporal or spiritual, with which the last year has been crowned. Ignorant of the future, and knowing it is Thine alone, I desire to leave it wholly to Thee, and to commit to Thy mercy and wisdom my own interests and the interests of all who are near and dear to me. Joyful thought! that our times are in Thy hands; that it will be well with those that fear Thee; and that all things will work together for good to those that love Thee. May we share in their blessedness by fearing and loving Thee as Thy children and Thy servants. In submission to Thy good will I pray for the

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continuance of life, of health, and of comfort to the close of another year; but especially that Thou wilt prepare me for, and sanctify to me the events of it, whatever they may be. With humbling, contrite emotion, I would call to mind the sins and failures of the past year, and of my past life, and give me grace to watch and strive against the continuance or renewal of them for the future. I desire to begin the year with Thee: O my God, may it be spent faithfully in Thy fear. I would afresh commit myself to Thy care, and devote myself to Thy service. Since every year brings me nearer to death and to eternity, may each find me better prepared for my great change. This year may be my last; grant that death, whenever it comes, may be no surprise or terror to me. May the close of every year, and of every day, find me wiser and better; more happy in myself, more useful to others, more faithful to Thee, more influenced by the Spirit of Christ, more devoted to His service, and more meet for that world where days and years shall be unknown, and time shall be no more. 23 FEB 66

